



# Reporter

Presented by:  
Milwaukee County EMS Council  
Public Information Committee

Spring, 2009  
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Milwaukee County EMS Council  
Public Information Committee

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council- Public Information Committee is to effectively provide accurate information to the stakeholders, elected officials and the general public relative to the contributions of the Milwaukee County EMS System. The committee will accomplish this through education, community outreach and media relations.

## EMS Education Ctr. Graduates 50<sup>th</sup> Class

Commencement for the 50th class of paramedics was held April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Froedtert Memorial Hospital Lutheran Hospital, Helfaer Auditorium.

Graduates receiving their certificate and paramedic patches (with their respective fire departments) are:

Matthew Anton (Wauwatosa), Ryan Berg (Greenfield), Joseph Hegeman Jr. (Milwaukee), Sean Hinsenkamp (Milwaukee), Jeremy Holm (Greenfield), Andrew Holzer (North Shore), Daniel Kurth (Milwaukee), Matthew LaDousa (West Allis), John Mathaus (Milwaukee), David Rogowski (Milwaukee), Anthony San Felippo (Wauwatosa), Jason Schaak (West Allis), Jared Triplett (Milwaukee), and Michael Wirtz (West Allis).

The evening was full of ceremony, inspiration, well-wishes and contrast. The Master of Ceremonies was Kenneth Sternig, the Program Director for Milwaukee County EMS. The Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services Council (MC EMS) Chairman, Mark Borkowski, gave the welcome to all the attendees. Mr. Borkowski is a member of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and has

been an active supporter of Emergency Medical Services for many years. He welcomed all in attendance to this exciting evening.

The commencement address was given by two very distinguished physicians who have been instrumental in the development of the Milwaukee County EMS system, Dr. John Petersen and Dr. Charles Aprahamian. They stressed the history of the nationally renowned MC EMS system and how proud the graduates should be in becoming a part of it. Treating patients and their families with kindness was an important all-encompassing theme.

Dr. Ronald Pirrallo, the Medical Director for the MC EMS system, spoke of the importance of the EMS system and lauded the dedication of the paramedics to providing quality care to the citizens of Milwaukee County.

Michael Wright a paramedic with the Milwaukee Fire Dept and member of the MC EMS Council gave a "Welcome to the Profession" to the

new graduates.

The 2009 Class Representative was David Rogowski. David has had many years on the Milwaukee Fire Department and chose to proceed with paramedic training. He has had an interest in quality healthcare for a number of years and is also a Registered Nurse. He discussed patient care issues and it's importance for public well-being.

The evening included a "look to the past". The paramedics from the 1<sup>st</sup> graduating class of 1973 were invited to this important event. There were 9 members in the original class. 4 of the members of this class were in attendance, 3 members were deceased their families attended in their honor, and two 2 live out of state. Ken Sternig presented a contrast between the 1973 and 2009 class. This was an amazing journey showing the progress that has been made in the evolution of our current EMS system and the development of continuous improvement of quality care. Each paramedic (1973) or their family received a certificate and paramedic patches from MC EMS thanking them for being a "pioneer paramedic". To date, 639 paramedics have been educated for fire departments in Milwaukee County.

## Calendar

### **EMS Council Meetings**

May 27, 2009

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place:

FMLH Conference Ctr.  
8700 Watertown Plank Rd.

### **Medical Society**

May 19, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place:

1126 S. 70<sup>th</sup> Street

### **EMS Council Public Information Committee**

July 21, 2009

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: EMS Offices

1220 W. Vliet St. -Suite 304

### **Milwaukee Brewer – First Responder Day**

Milwaukee Brewers will  
acknowledge EMS 1<sup>st</sup>  
Responders at a home game  
v. St. Louis on 5/27 @  
12:05 p.m. Tickets can be  
purchased @ half off – go to:  
[http://protected.tickets.com  
/buy/MLBOnsale?agency=  
BRWSB2B\\_53&orgid=4&  
poid=15354](http://protected.tickets.com/buy/MLBOnsale?agency=BRWSB2B_53&orgid=4&poid=15354)

### **EMS Week**

May 17 – 23, 2009

### **Operation Red Dragon**

Military/EMS/Hospital  
Disaster Drill  
June 17

### **“Tee Up for Our Troops” Fisher House Golf Outing**

August 17, 2009  
North Hills Country Club

### **West Allis Fire Department Open House**

May 16, 2009  
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
2040 S. 67<sup>th</sup> Place

### **Greenfield Fire Department Blood Pressure Check**

May 20, 2009  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Pick ‘n Save  
76<sup>th</sup> and Coldspring

## 1973 Paramedic Class



### **1<sup>st</sup> Paramedic Class:**

Fritz Ambroch, Ronald Barry,  
William Beres, Gerald Breznik,  
Clarence Hutto, Donald Liedle,  
Charles Mellor, Darryl Ottow,  
Raymond Schrader

## MC EMS Initiates Bar Code Inventory System

In an effort to improve ordering and distribution of disposable supplies and the management of medical equipment, Milwaukee County EMS has implemented a bar code inventory tracking system. Milwaukee County EMS handles disposable supplies which are purchased directly because they are unique to EMS care, and they also process orders for disposable supplies such as intravenous fluids and medications through Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital. County EMS is also responsible for the purchase and management of critical life saving equipment such as the ZOLL cardiac monitor defibrillators. The bar coding inventory tracking system will help County EMS be more effective in efficiently managing our inventories.



## EMS Says a Fond Farewell to a Local EMS Leader

Milwaukee County EMS and the City of Milwaukee Fire Department are losing an outstanding EMS leader with the retirement of Deputy Chief Gloria A. Murawsky-Akuna. Chief Murawsky has been a member of the Milwaukee Fire Department for the past 28 years and had been a paramedic since graduating from the Milwaukee County EMS Education Center on April 9, 1981. She has worked as a field paramedic, Supervisory Lieutenant, EMS Battalion Chief, and Deputy Chief in charge of special operations. Until her retirement, April 17, 2009, Gloria had been a member of the Milwaukee County EMS Council. She remains a member of the State of Wisconsin EMS Advisory Board and sits on the prestigious National EMS Advisory Council's Education and Workforce Subcommittee. "I truly admire the work Deputy Chief Gloria Murawsky has done over the years. Improving patient care has always been a visible priority for her. Her leadership and guidance shows in all of the strides MFD has made regarding EMS. I will sincerely miss working with her as a partner in EMS." Linda Wiedmann, Director of Operations Meda-Care Ambulance.

In recognition of Gloria's distinguished leadership in EMS locally, statewide and nationally, she was presented with a framed certificate and patch board at the 50<sup>th</sup> commencement service on April 15, 2009.

# CSM Acknowledges Paramedics' Excellence

## Contact Us

### Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services

1220 W. Vliet Street  
Suite 304  
Milwaukee WI 53205

PHONE:  
(414) 289-6540

FAX:  
(414) 289-8528

E-MAIL:  
[janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com](mailto:janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com)

### Public Information Committee

Supv. Mark Borkowski  
Chairman – EMS Council

Fire Chief Jon Cohn  
Greendale Fire Dept.  
[jcohn@greendale.org](mailto:jcohn@greendale.org)

Jimmy Ellis  
Columbia St. Mary's Hospital  
[jellis@columbia-stmarys.org](mailto:jellis@columbia-stmarys.org)

Pat Haines  
Froedtert Hospital  
[phaines@fmlh.edu](mailto:phaines@fmlh.edu)

Jason Liu, M.D.  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
[jmlu@mcw.edu](mailto:jmlu@mcw.edu)

Mary Spencer  
Milwaukee School of Engineering  
[spencer@msoe.edu](mailto:spencer@msoe.edu)

Ken Sternig  
Milwaukee County EMS  
[kenneth.sternig@milwcnty.com](mailto:kenneth.sternig@milwcnty.com)

Linda Wiedmann  
Meda-Care Ambulance  
[linda@meda-care.com](mailto:linda@meda-care.com)

We're on the Web!

See us at:  
[www.milwaukee.gov/ems](http://www.milwaukee.gov/ems)

Dep. Chief Robert Whitaker received the following letter from Columbia St. Mary's recently.

"Your EMS providers, Pete Brierton, Chris Kadow, and Jason Katz transported an elderly female to the CSM Columbia Campus Chest Pain Center In February

with a complaint of an acute respiratory distress. She had a cardiac condition and went to the cath lab emergently. A Heart Alert was initiated and the patient was immediately taken to the cath lab and found to have minimal coronary artery. She did improve and was discharged a week later.

On behalf of the Chest Pain Center, I would like to thank you for your excellent care."

Signed:  
A Physician from CSM



## Milwaukee County EMS Education Center Gears Up to Teach Life Guards



The MC EMS Education Center will again be assisting the county parks departments by educating over 100 life guards in an advanced first aid class called MC EMS First Responder. The MC EMS Education Center has helped to educate new life

guards and provide refresher class to returning guards for the past seven years. County EMS appreciates the collaboration we have with the Parks Department in educating their highly trained life guards.



## EMS Week – May 17 – 23, 2009

The following hospitals will be celebrating EMS Week at their facilities with various festivities.

**Thank you for your support.**

| Provider   | Festivities   |
|--|---|
| <b>Aurora Sinai Medical Center</b>   | Sandwiches, Beverages, Cake 5/20.   |
| <b>St. Joseph's Regional Medical Ctr.</b>  | Snacks and food throughout the week   |
| <b>Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare</b><br>St. Francis and Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - Franklin | St. Francis & Franklin will provide different ethnic-themed food each day. Raffles and Giveaways during the week.   |
| <b>Community Memorial</b>  | Daily Treats and a banquet on 5/21 with recognition of the EMT of the year for each service.  |
| <b>Columbia St. Mary's, Milwaukee and Columbia Campuses</b>                                      | Daily snacks and giveaways during EMS Week  |
| <b>Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital</b>  | Treats and Raffles throughout the week and the annual "Cook For You" contest.   |
| <b>Aurora St. Lukes Medical Center</b><br>(Celebrating EMS Week - May 11-15)                     | Luncheon Meal, Drawings for a pair of Brewers Tickets and an awards ceremony for the winning EMS Stories nominations. 30 Prize Raffle to include: Cousins Subs, Subway, Marcus Movie Tickets, Starbucks, Jimmy Johns, just to name a few. |

## EMS Education Center Interesting Facts

### To Date -

- 50 classes have been held over the past 37 years of education
- > 625 paramedics have been educated
- EMS Education Center has been housed in 6 different locations
- The school has had only 2 Medical Directors and 3 Education Managers

In 1973 when the first paramedic class graduated there was:

- 1 lead instructor
- 2-3 adjunct instructors
- 1 Medical Director
- 9-12 students/class
- No curriculum/ textbook
- 13 wks of classroom
- 9 wks field training

In the 2009 class there was:

- 1 education manager
- 4 full-time faculty
- 1 Medical Director
- \* 1 Asst. Medical Director
- \* 2 Assoc. medical Directors
- 15-25 students/class
- National/State Curriculum
- Classes on computers
- 17 wks of class
- 10 wks field training



Watch for EMS **Provider Spotlight** in August Reporter. We will be spotlighting Cudahy Fire Dept. and Bell Ambulance

## Medical Control Records to Go Paperless

County EMS is currently working with computer programmers to change the method in which the EMS Communication Center documents the medical orders given to paramedics in the field. Currently when a municipal fire department paramedic crew communicates with a physician located in the EMS Communication Center, the physician documents their orders on a paper form. This paper form must then be united with the paramedic patient care record and archived. An initiative is in development to have the physician form created in an electronic format, integrating data already obtained by the EMS Communications Center staff as part of normal communications which occur on each paramedic call. This process will assist County EMS to have medical documentation available real-time which will improve quality control for the EMS system.



## New Interim Health and Human Services Director

On April 4, 2009, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker said he would name Lisa Jo Marks to head the county Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Marks has been director of the county's Department of Child Support Enforcement for the past two years and has worked in other positions in the department since 1989. MC EMS is a Division of Health and Human Services, and the staff looks forward to working with Lisa.

## EMS Annual Report

The MC EMS Annual Report is at the printer and will be ready for distribution in May. If you would like a copy of the report – contact Janis Spitzer at [Janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com](mailto:Janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com) or 414-289-6540, and she will make certain you receive one.



## Educational Programs

- **June 19, 2009** is the date for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual **Resuscitat ED** conference sponsored by the Medical College of Wisconsin, The Department of Emergency Medicine and the Department of Pediatrics, Section of Emergency Medicine. The Venue is Miller Park and is designed to bring a collection of up-to-date, concise topics on the emergency medical care of critically and injured . . . Close to Home! Target Audience: Emergency medicine physicians, midlevel providers, emergency medical nurses, paramedics, and other allied health professionals. For more information visit the website at: [www.mcw.edu/emergencymed.htm](http://www.mcw.edu/emergencymed.htm)
- **September 17, 2009** check out the "SERTAC Conference" – Cutting Edge in Trauma – venue Olympia Resort and Conference Center in Oconomowoc. Keynote Speaker: John A. Weigelt MD, DVM, MMA, Medical College of Wisconsin Trauma Surgeon Chief, Trauma Surgery and Surgical Critical Care. Topics include Tactical EMS, OB Trauma, Critical Care of the Trauma Patient to name a few. For more information visit the website at: [www.sertac-wi.com](http://www.sertac-wi.com)

The next issue of the REPORTER will be distributed in August, 2009. Anyone having content for this issue is encouraged to submit the same to Janis Spitzer @ [janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com](mailto:janis.spitzer@milwcnty.com) no later than July 10, 2009.